

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /060 W
-----086764 111221Z /41

R 101525Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5086
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7550

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG KS PFOR
SUBJECT: KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ZAIRE

REF: A) KINSHASA 7131 B) KINSHASA 7077

1. DESPITE CONCERNS OF AMBASSADOR SHIN (REFTELS), VISIT HERE BY FOMIN PAK TONG-CHIN WENT WELL. PAK HAD MEETINGS WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WAS HOSTED AT DINNER BY FINANCE MINISTER (FILLING IN FOR ABSENT FOREIGN MINISTER) AND ON LAST DAY WAS RECEIVED BRIEFLY BUT WARMLY BY MOBUTU. ALL ACTIVITIES WERE GIVEN PROMINENT AND FAVORABLE PLAY BY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA.

2. SHIN TOLD ME MOBUTU MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) ZAIRE APPRECIATES ROBK " SUPPORT" DURING SHABA INVASION (PAK MADE GIFT OF MILITARY UNIFORMS DURING VISIT); B) TIME IS RIPE FOR EXPANDING AREAS OF GOZ-ROK COOPERATION; C) GOZ INTENDS TO OPEN EMBASSY IN SEOUL; AND D) MOBUTU WOULD LIKE TO PICK UP ROKG INVITATION EXTENDED SOME TIME AGO TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA. ON LATTER POINT, SHIN SAID NO DATE WAS NAILED DOWN BUT HE GUESSED MOBUTU MIGHT GO EARLY NEXT YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION, SHIN SAID NEWLY-APPOINTED MINISTER OF NATIONAL ORIENTATION, MOKOLO, WILL VISIT SEOUL IN NOVEMBER AND PRESUMABLY WILL DISCUSS AT THAT TME
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ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOBUTU VISIT.

3. SHIN SAID FONMIN PAK DELIBERATELY AVOIDED RAISING KOREAN ISSUE DURING HIS TALKS HERE, FIGURING THAT ANY APPEAL FOR SUPPORT WOULD BE UNNECESSARY AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN VIEW OF ZAIRE'S CURRENTLY FAVORABLE POSITION.

4. RE ZAIRE'S RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA, SHIN NOTED THAT NORTH KOREAN PRESENCE IN ZAIRE, SO EXTENSIVE TWO YEARS AGO, HAS DIMINISHED TO THE POINT THAT THERE ARE NOW ONLY A HANDFUL OF OFFICIALS AND TECHNICIANS LEFT IN THE COUNTRY. NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR DEPARTED DEFINITELY ABOUT A MONTH AGO, LEAVING ONLY TWO MEDIUM-LEVEL OFFICERS MANNING KINSHASA EMBASSY. REMAINING N.K. MEDICAL OFFICERS WORKING WITH FAZ ALSO HAVE LEFT, AND NORTH KOREANS ARE NOW TRYING TO SELL KINSHASA APARTMENT BUILDING WHICH ONCE HOUSED LARGE NUMBER OF THEIR PERSONNEL. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO SHIN, GOZ HAS RECENTLY WITHDRAWN ALL ITS REMAINING PERSONNEL FROM PYONGYANG.

5. SHIN SAID FONMIN PAK WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH VISIT HERE AND MADE CLEAR HE VIEWED ZAIRE AS A FOCAL POINT FOR PURSUING ROK POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN AFRICA. SHIN IS UNDER NO ILLUSION RE MOBUTU'S EXPECTATIONS OF INCREASED ASSISTANCE AS INTEGRAL PART OF THIS WARMING RELATIONSHIP; SHIN APPEARS LESS CERTAIN , HOWEVER, THAT SEOUL IS INCLINED TO GO VERY FAR IN MEETING THOSE EXPECTATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA07550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770289-0563
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770877/aaaacnou.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10cc305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 7131, 77 KINSHASA 7077
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1649537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ZAIRE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PDIP, CG, KS, (PAK TONG-CHIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10cc305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009